



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
1325 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283

APR 14 2005

Mr. Mark Doehnert  
6324 Anneliese Drive  
Falls Church, Virginia 22044-1621

Dear Mr. Doehnert:

This is in response to your January 3, 2005, and February 9, 2005, letters pursuant to Section 515 of P.L. 106-554 (the Information Quality Act) that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) received on January 11, 2005, and February 17, 2005, respectively. Your letters requested that NOAA include on its Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland voice recorded weather forecasts the time a forecast is prepared or the time of the observation used to make the forecast. For the reasons explained below, NOAA is denying your request for correction.

Your request that NOAA include the time of forecast issuance or the time of the observation with its voice recorded weather forecasts would not result in more timely forecasts. We do not have scheduled release times of our public weather forecasts, except for two routine daily issuances at approximately 4:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. local time. Otherwise, throughout the entire day, forecasters update the local forecast whenever conditions warrant. Knowing its time does not ensure you are listening to the latest forecast.

We are in the process of automating distribution and delivery of our forecasts as much as possible to make sure the latest information is always readily available. Technicians at the Baltimore-Washington Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Sterling, Virginia, are working on a system that will connect the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards program to the telephone recording to achieve consistent, reliable service. This new process should be in place by summer.

In the meantime, you can be sure the WFO staff are making every effort to keep the telephone recording up to date with the latest forecast. You might find it easier to monitor the latest forecast and weather conditions by listening to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. Receivers are available at most radio stores and via Internet web sites. More information about this service is available at: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/lwx/nwr/nwr.htm> Or, if you have Internet access, you could keep up with local forecasts through the <http://www.weather.gov> web site, or directly at: <http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/data/forecasts/zone/va/vaz054.txt>

You may file an appeal of this denial, as outlined in Part III.D.1. of the NOAA IQ Guidelines, within 30 calendar days of the date of this correspondence. Your appeal must include: 1) the requestor's name, current home or business address, and telephone number or electronic mail



address; 2) a copy of the original request and any correspondence regarding the initial denial (including a copy of this document); and 3) a statement of the reasons why you, the requestor, believe this decision is in error.

The complete appeal must be submitted to:

NOAA Section 515 Officer  
NOAA Executive Secretariat  
Herbert C. Hoover Building - Room 5230  
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Thank you for your letters. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to discuss them with you. You may telephone me at (301) 713-1704 ext 155 or e-mail me at [Robert.McLeod@noaa.gov](mailto:Robert.McLeod@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. McLeod". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert J. McLeod  
Chief, Awareness Branch  
Office of Climate, Water, and  
Weather Services